

Contributions.

DOWN TO SLEEP.

November woods are bare and still;
 November days are clear and bright;
 Each noon burns up the morning's chill;
 The morning snow is gone by night;
 Each day my steps grow slow, grow light,
 As through the woods I reverent creep,
 Watching all things lie "down to sleep."
 I never knew before what beds,
 Fragrant to smell and soft to touch,
 The forest sifts and shapes and spreads;
 I never knew before how much
 Of human sound there is in such
 Low tones as through the forest sweep,
 When all wild things lie "down to sleep."
 Each day I find new coverlids
 Tucked in and more sweet eyes shut tight;
 Sometimes the viewless mother bids
 Her ferns kneel down, full in my sight;
 I hear their chorus of "Good night."
 And half I smile and half I weep,
 Listening while they lie "down to sleep."
 November woods are bare and still;
 November days are bright and good;
 Life's noon burns up life's morning chill;
 Life's night rests feet which long have stood;
 Some warm, soft bed, in field or wood,
 The mother will not fail to keep,
 Where we can lay us "down to sleep."

—Helen Hunt.

THE OPPOSITION TO CHRIST.

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Read at S. S. Nov. 25.

Christ has been opposed from the very earliest period of his life, to the present time, yea, and will be opposed as long as time shall last. Every cause whose mission is for good will be opposed. For it is the nature of sinful men, prompted by Satan, to oppose every good work which is intended for the enlarging and up building of Christ's cause and kingdom.

Christ was opposed when but a mere child, when King Herod, of Jerusalem, sought to take his life, for fear he would rob him of his ruling power.

Now Satan begins to plan and lay plots, how he might destroy our blessed Redeemer, "Christ our Lord," and thus have no opposition to his sinful and subtle ways. So Satan with his influence, caused the wise men, or magicians of the east, to set up a reasoning among themselves as to where they would find the child Jesus, which they desired to visit. Now they decided to leave the course which they had heretofore been taking, under the direction of the star, which would have led them to the desired destination.—But now reasoning as Namon, the Syrian leper, they turned

aside thinking they would find this great child Jesus at Jerusalem, where the King resided. Only carrying out the plan of Satan, to make known to that wicked and worldly King Herod where he might find the child Jesus and destroy him. But on their arrival at Jerusalem they were disappointed, and on making inquiry, they were instructed by King Herod, "who learned through the priests that the child was born at Bethlehem," to go and search diligently until they found the child, and then return to him immediately that he might go and worship him also. Only laying a plan to find out the exact place where Jesus was. The *wise men* now return to the place where they left the star, and when they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

O how many leave the direction of the star, and oppose Christ by substituting another course in its place, a way which they deem more easy to travel, simply because their way gives them just a little more rope. But truly if they would find Jesus they must return to the star and walk in that *one* straight path which leads to the presence of Jesus. O how we should strive to keep in that one divinely appointed way, the only way which will lead us to the haven of rest where we can see Jesus, the only begotten, who came into the world to save that which was lost.

When Jesus was ready to begin his great work here on earth, immediately after his baptism, while full of the holy spirit, he was driven into the wilderness. And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. Now Satan makes his last great subtle encounter with Jesus, desiring to overthrow the kingdom of Christ, and leave the world in a lost and ruined condition. Satan lost the battle, and Jesus through obedience to the will of God came out the conquerer. Thus we see Christ was opposed in the very beginning, and at the most trying time of his life.

The Christian man or woman should not discourage in being opposed, and rest assured that God will overthrow the plans of Satan, just as he overthrew the plan of Herod, and will bring us out the victor.

The individual who does not meet

with opposition may rest assured he is not doing much good toward the up-building of the real kingdom of Christ. For if Christ was so bitterly opposed, while here on earth, how much more will we be opposed if we try to walk in his footsteps, and preach, teach, and practice the Gospel-alone doctrine.

Opposition should not discourage us. We should love our Redeemer more and more, when we learn of the striking accounts of his opposition, while wandering in this sinful world.

Is there an individual to-day who could withstand what our Lord and Saviour did, in being opposed and persecuted in the most bitter, trying way? When wicked and ungodly men can not hinder a good work, they will turn against it, and ridicule it in the most ridiculous manner. When a sinner resolves to turn from the path of sin, and follow the great ideal of life, Christ Jesus. Now when Satan finds he is going to loose a follower, he begins in his sly and smooth way of reasoning to reason with the individual telling him that he is as good as they who profess to be Christians. The individual may reason thus, well over there is brother A, he attends the circus, and there is old brother B, who votes the prohibition ticket, and goes behind the door and takes a glass of ale, and here is neighbor C, a minister, he engages in worldly games such as checkers, crocomomo and visits socials, theaters, etc. In this way many a one is caused to continue his sinful ways.

Here we see how the cause of Christ is opposed and hindered by the church member not living a sincere, and consecrated Christian life. O! how many are deceived by the opposer of all good and are cut off in their sins, and separated from the presence of God and the angels, forever. Then, when the sinner resolves to become a follower of Christ, and enlists in the good work, again Satan tries to regain him, by the use of sinful men as agents, who continually point the finger of scorn at him, and try if possible to bring him to the barren mountains of sin and folly. But we find when we are persecuted for the Son of Man's sake we have the promise of the help of God, if we come boldly to the throne of grace and ask for help and strength to sustain us in time of